



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

DEC 03 2003

The Honorable Bill Richardson  
Governor of New Mexico  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Richardson:

Thank you for your letter of March 10, 2003, in which you submitted New Mexico's recommendations on air quality designations for the 8-hour national health-based standard for ground level ozone. The State submittal was the first step in our working cooperatively to designate as nonattainment those areas in which the air standards have not been attained and in designating attainment those areas that have achieved the clean air goal. Based on 1999-2001 ambient ozone data, you recommended attainment status for all areas in the State with regard to the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard.

Consistent with the Clean Air Act, Section 107(d)(1), this letter is to inform you that the EPA does not intend to make modifications to your recommended designations and boundaries included in your July 1, 2003, letter. Based on 2000-2002 ozone monitoring data, all areas in New Mexico are attaining.

Further, throughout the 2003 ozone season, the New Mexico Environmental Department along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tracked 2003 ozone monitoring data and its impact on the areas' 2001-2003 ozone levels. We are pleased to report that preliminary 2001-2003 ozone monitoring data through the end of November 2003, continue to confirm that the entire State is in attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard, as well as the 1-hour ozone standard. We want to specifically acknowledge the voluntary efforts in your State to improve the air quality, especially the efforts with early air quality planning in the Farmington/San Juan County area. The EPA will continue to closely review monitoring data for additional differences that may occur through the remainder of the 2003 calendar year or as a result of data handling procedures to determine if that might affect the State's recommended designations.

The State's and EPA's work to identify areas in attainment or in nonattainment is an important step in our commitment to achieving clean air in our Region. I am pleased with the efforts that New Mexico has made to maintain attainment of the 8-hour ozone. We look forward to working with New Mexico as we proceed to finalize the designations for the 8-hour ozone standard.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or have your staff call Mr. Thomas Diggs, of my staff, at (214) 665-3102.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Greene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being more prominent and the last name "Greene" following in a similar style.

Richard E. Greene  
Regional Administrator (6RA)

cc: Mr. Ron Curry, Secretary  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Mr. Alfredo R. Santisteven  
Albuquerque Environmental Health Department